

MINUTES

OF THE

TWENTY-NINTH ANNIVERSARY

OF THE

CHICKASAW ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH THE

PHILADELPHIA CHURCH,

SEPTEMBER 18, 19, 20, AND 21 1868.

PONTOTOC:

SUB. OWN PAPER, PRINT.

1868.

177
18



MINUTES.

FRIDAY MORNING.

The Delegates composing the Chickasaw Association assembled with the Philadelphia Church, Lafayette County, Mississippi, Friday fore the third Sabbath in September, 1868.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Eld. J. T. Pitts, from the 1st verse of the 53d chapter of Isaiah. Theme—The Cross of Christ. The congregation was then dismissed for one hour.

FRIDAY EVENING.

The Delegates assembled in the house when to affect an organization Eld. James Boswell was called to the chair, Elder L. Ball not being present.

Prayer by Elder W. W. Finley of the Yalabusha Association.

The Moderator appointed Elders W. L. Finley and J. B. Gambrell reading clerks.

The letters from the churches composing the Association, were then called for and read, and the names of delegates enrolled and the statistics entered.

On motion, the second article in the Constitution was suspended so that the Delegates from Acadama Church, might be received, as they were present without a letter from their church.

Petitionary letters were then called for, when the El-Bethel Church, presented a letter asking admission into this body, which was agreed to, and the right hand of fellowship given to her delegates.

The Association proceeded to the election of Moderator and Clerk—Elders W. L. Slack and W. W. Finley acting as tellers—which resulted in the election of Elder Jas. Boswell as Moderator and E. Smith Clerk.

Appointment of Committees.

Devotional Committee—A. W. Funk and H. Pitts to act in concert with the pastor and deaconship of Philadelphia Church.

On the State of Religion—Elders H. L. Finley, W. L. Farmer, D. I. Smith, W. L. Souther and J. Robbins.

On Documents—Elders J. T. Pitts, T. Gorley, J. B. Gambrell and Bro. J. B. Nunley.

On Sabbath Schools—Elders J. B.

Gambrell, D. I. Smith and H. Pritchard.

On Temperance—Elders J. T. Pitts, J. Smith and Bro. A. W. Funk.

On the Bible Cause—Elders H. L. Finley, W. L. Farmer, and Brs. A. Beard and J. B. Steward.

On Finance—Elder D. I. Smith and Bros. S. H. Plant and W. L. Souter.

On Arrangement of Business—Elders J. T. Pitts, W. L. Farmer, J. Smith, and Bros. W. A. Funk and J. E. Boatwright.

On Motion, adjourned to 8½ o'clock Saturday morning.

Prayer by Elder W. L. Slack.

SATURDAY MORNING.

Met pursuant to adjournment.

Prayer by Elder M. P. Lowry, Minutes of Friday read and approved.

The Committee appointed to arrange Business, to come before this body, made their report which was adopted as follows:

The Committee beg leave to recommend the following:

1st. Read the Constitution, Rules of Decorum and Abstract Principles.

2nd. Call for Correspondence from bodies with whom we correspond.

3d. Invite visiting brethren from sister associations and ministering

brethren of our own order to seat with us.

4th. Appoint Corresponding messengers to Sister Associations, and the State Convention, and Brethren to write.

5th. Appoint the place for holding the next meeting of this Association.

6th. Elect a minister to preach the next Introductory Sermon.

7th. Call for the report of the Executive Board.

8th. Call for the Treasurer's report.

9th. Elect the Executive Board.

10th. Call for the report of Committees.

11th. Call for Resolutions and General Business; all of which I Respectfully submitted.

J. T. Pitts, Chairman.

Called for petitionary letters when the Cary Spring Church, presented a letter by the hands of her delegates which was read and agreed to, and the right hand of fellowship was given to her delegates.

Read the Rules of Decorum, Constitution and Abstract of Principles.

Call for Correspondance, when Elders M. P. Lowery and J. E. Rodgers bearing a package of their last Minutes, was received from the Tippah Association.

From the Yalabusha Association, Elder W. W. Finley.

From the Baptist State Convention, Elder M. P. Lowry.

By motion, invited the ministers and brethren of our order in good standing, not delegates, to seats in this body.

Appointment of Correspondence.

To the Cold Water Association—Elders W. L. Farmer, H. L. Finley, and J. Smith; brethren J. E. Boatwright and J. M. Evans—H. L. Finley to write.

To the Tishamingo Association, Elders J. B. Gambrell, H. L. Finley, J. W. Crosley and H. Prichard—J. B. Gambrell to write.

To the Aberdeen Association Elders L. Ball, J. Smith and Bro. S. R. Powell—J. Smith to write.

To the Baptist State Convention Elders L. Ball, H. L. Finley, J. B. Gambrell, D. I. Smith, J. Smith, H. Pritchard, J. T. Pitts; and brethren N. M. Berry, E. Smyth, A. W. Funk, S. H. Wood, J. E. Boatwright, J. K. Gilton, J. F. Fletcher, H. T. Pitts, J. B. Herring, J. W. Lewis, J. McTucker—H. L. Finley to write.

To the Judson Association, Elders J. B. Gambrell, D. I. Smith, J. T. Pitts, J. Smith, and brethren W. A. Funk, J. Robbins, J. McTucker, J. F. Stocks, W. L. Souther and E. Smyth—J. T. Pitts to write.

To the Yalabusha Association.

Elder James Crosley, J. Gorley, H. Pritchard, H. L. Linley and

brethren J. W. Crosley, W. G. McGill, H. L. Johnson and J. Powell—James Crosley to write.

To the Tippah Association, Elder L. Ball, James Boswell, H. L. Finley, W. L. Reynolds and brethren F. W. Hall, J. H. Berry, L. D. Adams, J. Medlin—J. H. Berry to write.

Appointed the next session of this body to be held with the church at Cherry Creek, eight miles North of the Town of Pontotoc.

On application, Granted letters of dismission to the Acadama and Fellowship Churches.

Elected Elder W. L. Farmer to preach the next introductory sermon H. L. Finley alternate. Adjourned to hear a sermon by Elder J. B. Gambrell.

EVENING SESSION.

Prayer by Elder M. P. Lowry.

On motion Elder M. P. Lowry was given time to address the Association in behalf of the Domestic Board at Marion Ala. for funds to carry forward its objects when \$25 was raised and placed in the hands of Elder Lowry.

On application leave of absence was granted to W. G. Poe. On motion of E. Smyth.

Resolved, that Elders H. L. Finley, J. T. Pitts, James Boswell, W. L. Farmer, J. E. Boatwright, T. Gorley, W. L. Souther be, and are appointed

committee to re-district the association and report Monday morning.

Called for the report of the Executive Board when further time was asked for and obtained.

Went into the election of the Executive Board which resulted in the choice of N. M. Berry, E. Smyth, A. W. Funk, S. H. Plant, and W. L. Souter.

On application granted, leave of absence to E. H. Major.

Report of the Committee on Sabbath Schools,

The Committee on sabbath schools made its report which was adopted as follows:

Your committee on sabbath schools beg leave to report that we deem it unnecessary to argue the importance of Sabbath schools; past experience and the great work already accomplished through this means are arguments sufficient and from this vitality, surely none can be among intelligent christians, who will not admit the necessity of a well regulated Sabbath school. If it be important that our children know the way of life, through Christ it is important that we teach them that way. Whilst the necessity for Sabbath schools is generally admitted it is to be feared that many do not fully realize the nature of the work to be accomplished by them. We often are their most earnest advocates

plead for them on the score of morality. This is a secondary consideration, every Sabbath School should have for its great object the salvation of the Souls of the children.

If it aims at or comes short of this we may well say that it is a failure. With this one object, before us, the course of instruction suggests itself. The great doctrines of the Gospel are to be taught. Christ is to be held forth to the children and affectually urged on them as a great and a willing Savior. Not only is Christ to be held up as a Savior. Our last condition we are by nature should be impressed with ponderous weight upon the minds of all.

We have said that morality is a secondary consideration because the first and greatest consideration is salvation through Christ; also because there can be no true morality out of Christ. If we would have a pure stream let us first look to the fountain, if we would have our children order their lives aright before God, let us see first to have their hearts (the great fountain of human action) cleansed by the blood of Christ, which alone can cleanse from all sin. What every one needs in order to be truly moral is the reigning power of the grace of God in the heart. A Sabbath school organized for the great purpose of bringing souls to Christ deserves not only the support, but the most earnest and continuous prayer of every lover of Jesus and

of souls. Teachers should enter upon their duties with very much of the same spirit that ministers should have, when they attempt to preach Christ. Study, and prayer should not be neglected with the importance of the work before they should enter the school room with a warm and tender heart. The worth of souls should lie with ponderous weight upon their hearts and they ought to feel that the destiny of immortal beings is at least in some measure committed to their care. If this were so O what earnestness would teachers press home the solemn truth of the word of God. With regard to books we would say but little, evidently we should have books suited to the work. Books that teach the saving principles of christianity.

Sabbath school books, religious newspapers and ministers that inculcate nothing, but morality are alike unworthy of the support of the favor of the truth as it is in Jesus.— We would speak especially against any book gotten up in a spirit of compromise. In such books the doctrines of the Cross are kept in the back ground, in order that all denominations may unite. Baptist cannot compromise their principles. Truth is dearer than union.

The Sabbath school is said to be the nursery of the church. If this be so, let us see to it that we so nurture our youths that they may grow up strong in the faith of the bible and of our church and be able to de-

fend as they ought to do, the once delivered faith.

Finally brethren, the Sabbath school work is a great work; its object that of teaching the way of life, the greatest that ever engaged the attention of mortal beings.— The necessity for this work is upon us and with it, and many opportunities for engaging in it comes the most fearful responsibilities; will we in the fear of God and by his help rise up and discharge our duties in this matter, or will we with one consent make excuses. God forbid that we should prove recreant to our trust. Parents with you rests the success of this great work. It will not do to send your children, you must take them. Must this work fail because parents who profess to love Jesus will not give it their support? If so, who can measure the responsibility of such a parent? Brethren, in view of the shortness of time, and our near approach to the bar of God let us all with renewed determination get about this great work realizing that what we do for our children, in this way, we must do soon. Let us live, and act that when we come to die we may leave to our children a rich legacy of pious example and heavenly instruction and be prepared to receive in the saints everlasting rest the welcome of the faithful.

All of which is respectfully submitted, J. B. GAMRELL Chairman;

Union Meetings.

The Union meeting of this district will meet with the Pleasant Hill church, [Tippah Co.,] on Thursday before the 1st Sabbath in Aug. 1869.

Introductory Sermon to be preached by Eld J. R. Gambrell, Eld J. T. Pitts, Alternate.

The following Brethren, were appointed to write Essays upon Subjects following their names viz.

W. E. Berry—On the good influence of early religious training of children. J. N. Herring. The relation that exists between Christ and the believer.

N. S. Watson, necessity of piety in youth.

R. M. Leavell. The necessity of an educated Ministry. Elder J. R. Gambrell—On hope. Elder L. Hall—On the Atonement. J. S. Berry—On the character of the Apostle Paul.

E. Smith—On Covetousness. J. H. Berry—On the duty of Deacons.

The following Queries are proposed for discussion. viz

What shall be done with a member who persistently refuses to attend his church meeting?

Is a minister authorized to baptise a convert without the consent or knowledge of any church?

What is the meaning of Math. 13:43. When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man he walketh through dry places, seeking rest and findeth none? What is the door into the visible Kingdom of Jesus Christ?

Is it in accordance with scriptures in the New Testament for a Presbyterian to constitute a church when said church has not the right to support a Pastor?

Synopsis of the proceedings of the Second District of the Association, held at the church at Shiloh, Lafayette Miss., commencing on Friday the 5th Sabbath in August.

Time and place, for next year—will be with the church at Cypress on Friday before the 2nd day in August, 1869.

Elder Thomas Gorley, to preach the Introductory sermon.

Essays

H. L. Finley—Election.

B. B. Barmore—Faith.

W. L. Souther—Temperance.

John Morgan—Support of

try.

Robert Ferrell—Sabbath

H. Pritchard—Atonement

Queries for discussion

1. What course should be pursued with a member who persistently refuses to partake of the Lord's Supper?

2. Did Judas, partake of the Lord's Supper?

3. What course should be pursued with a church that sustains a minister and sustains him when he has been excluded by a sister church?

Association adjourned to 8 o'clock Monday Morning; Prayer by James Crosley.

SABBATH MORNING

The Stand was occupied

by o'clock a. m. by Elder D. I. Smith, at 11 by Elder M. P. Lowry and at 4 in the afternoon there was a mass meeting on the subject of Sabbath Schools. The meeting was addressed by Elder M. P. Lowry, James Gambrel and J. E. Rodgers. At candle-light the pulpit was occupied by Elder A. J. Seale of the Aberdeen Association. The fruits of all the laborers will, we hope and trust, result in much good to those who heard.

MONDAY MORNING.

Met pursuant to adjournment,
Prayer by Elder W. L. Farmer.

Received Elder J. Furgerson as correspondent, from the Yalabusha Association, and Elders A. J. Seale, W. L. Slack and St. Clair Lawrence from the Aberdeen.

Called for the report of the Executive Board, which was read and adopted as follows:

The Executive Board beg leave to report that they were so fortunate to secure for one half his time, our beloved brother, Elder H. L. Finley, as missionary in the destitute portion of our bounds.

We invite your attention to his report herewith submitted.

We are much gratified that his labors have been most signally blessed.

It is matter of deep regret that we had not means to employ our dear

brother all the time, and that we were without means to furnish him with a supply of good religious books. We ventured to purchase on four months time, from the American and Foreign Bible Society, a lot of Bibles and Testaments, amounting to \$46 and 30cts., to which the Society generously added a donation amounting to \$28 and 45cts. Most of these have been sold or distributed to the destitute.

In looking over this field we see that much remains to be done. Much destitution still exists—perishing sinners on the way to eternal ruin who may be saved by the instrumentalities which God has required us to use. Our ministers cannot occupy those destitute fields and support their families. Those oft repeated words of our Savior, might well employ our thoughts and prayers: "The harvest is great, but the laborers are few." Your Board are of the opinion, that much more might be accomplished, were each church to adopt some system in their contributions for the cause of Christ. If each member represented in our Association were to give only one cent per week, your Board would have over one thousand dollars. A sum sufficient to send out two or more Missionaries with a good assortment of Baptist literature, which in connection with God's word, would greatly aid in building up the waste places

MORNING.
occupied at

in Zion. Satan seeks the co-operation of men in making war upon the religion of Jesus. And shall we not use the means which God has given us in meeting the assaults of this great adversary. Shall we through the plausible fallacy, that the little money we have, has been emancipated from the claims of God by our poverty, follow in effect the example of the ancient Spartans, who had embodied in their law, "That every man should serve the gods with the least possible expense to himself. That type of piety, would do well enough for the heathens. For they never heard the story of Him who became poor for our sake.— They were blessed with no sense of pardon through his name. They were gathered into no household of faith by His gracious Providence.— But redeemed by the death, and saved by the life of Christ, how can we refuse to bear expense in diffusing the Gospel in the world and supporting the stated ministrations of his truth and ordinances. How can we ask God to help us in our temporal affairs, when we fail to return to his due, by which we suffer his cause to languish. Then here are given us the soil, the seed and implements of husbandry, but with no rests, the responsibility of plowing, sowing and reaping.

In conclusion we recommend that your future Board, supply as far as possible the demand for family Bibles and other religious books.

We now surrender the trust, committed to our hands, praying God's blessings upon what has been done and pardon for imperfection and

errors committed.

Respectfully Submitted,
N. M. Berry Chairman

Missionary Report.

To Executive Board

Devoted eight months to the vice. Traveled 2,500 miles. Preached 140 sermons. Delivered 140 hortations. Constituted one church and three Sabbath Schools. Devised eleven Sabbath School lessons. Ordained one Minister and two Deacons. Baptised 31 converts. Witnessed over 100 professions of religion. Visited and preached in the churches in the bounds of the Association except six. Raised subscription for Home Mission societies, 30 dollars. By cash 12 dollars. Collected on pledges 50 dollars. Sold 50 dollars worth of Bibles and Testaments. Donated 30 dollars worth. Distributed 150 dollars worth of denominational literature. The Home Mission in our bounds destined to be a success, if properly sustained as will be seen from letters from the newly constituted churches. All of which is respectfully submitted.

H. L. Finley, Missionary

The Treasurer made his report which was adopted as follows:

Elijah Smyth, Treasurer, in connection with the Chickasaw Association

Dr.

Sept. 16th. 1868.—To amt. on hand as per report.....	
Jan. 1868.—Received from Friend Church, by J. Souter,	

April 4th, 'to amt. recd. New Hope Ch.	11,95
" 11th "to " " Academy " "	20,00.
" 15th "to " " Bethel Ch. L'ft. Co.	10,00
" "to " " Trinity Ch.	5,00.
July 6 h. "to " " New Hope Ch. . .	4,00.
" 12th. "to " " of B. J. Smith, 10,00.	
Jan. 1867, to " " Academy Ch.	20,00.
Sept. 13th. '68, " " L. Ball.....	20,00.
" " " " M. M. Berry.....	10,00.
" " " " E. Smith.....	10,00.
" " " " Cherry Creek Ch. 25,00.	
" 18th. " " " Jas. Boswell....	2,50.
" " " " J. H. Berry.....	10,00.
" " " " W. P. Goolsby....	5,00.
" " " " J. B. Smith.....	5,00.
" " " " Liberty Church....	10,00.
" " " " G. W. Hall.....	5,00.
Sept. 19th " " " P. P. Watts.....	5,00.
" " " " Mt. Pisga Church 4,70.	
" " " " R. W. Powell....	5,00.
" " " " F. Souter.....	5,00.
" " " " Temperance Hill Ch. 15,00	
" " " " Philadelphia Ch. 20,00.	
" " " " H. L. Finley.....	15,00.
" " " " J. M. Lee.....	5,00.

\$276,13.

Sept. 19th 1863, amt. recd. Bethel Ch.	\$ 7,00.
" " " " H. L. Finley	on sale of books 53,00.
" " " " J. M. Barksdale	5,00.
" " " " D. Singletary	5,00.
Sept. 30th " " " Public collection	on Sabbath.....21,00
" " " " Mt. Pisgah Ch.	Old subscription 5,30
	<u>\$96,45.</u>
	\$372 58.

Cr.

Sept. 17th 1867. By uncurrent funds	\$ 2 00
Jan. 1868, Express frt. on Minutes	50
April 15th 1868, By amt. paid. L. Finley	on last year's Salary....32 00
Sept. 10th 1868, By amount paid	A; and F. B Society 46 30,
" " " " By Express frt. on Bibles	5 50,
" " " " By amt. paid W. L.	Farmer on last year's
" " " " service.....	12 00
" " " " By amt. paid H. L.	Finley as Missionary \$274 28
	<u>\$372 58</u>
For Minutes as per last report.....	\$ 60 00
Sept. 19th 1868 By amt. received of	Financial Comt. 54,38

\$119 38

As per receipt for printing Minutes '67 50 00
Clerk's fee as per Resolutions of
the Association..... 10 00

60 00

Due by Treasurer to ballance..... 45 54

All of which is Respectfully sub-
mitted.

E. SMYTH, Treasurer

The Committee on finance made
their report which was agreed to as
follows :

Your committee on Finance report, collect
ed for minutes from

Amaziah	\$3.05
Acadama	
Antioch	
Bethel Po.	1,35
Bethel Lea.	1,75
Cypress Creek	1,85
Gherry Creek	5,50
Fellowship	1,85
Friendship	1,00
Liberty	2,10
Mount Pleasant	2,75
Mount Pisgah	1,65
Macedonia	1,50
New Hope	1,50
Pleasant Ridge	2,00
Pleasant Hill	1,50
Philadelphia	3,50
Poplar Springs	
Piney Grove	2,25
Spring Hill	2,50
Spring Creek	
Shady Grove	1,15
Shiloh	2,50
Temperance Hill	5,00
Washington	
Trinity	1,00
Union	
Hopewell	2,63
El-Bethel	1,50
Cary Springs	2,00

25.35

293.73
253.3
3380

23.43

Total..... 54 38
 Respectly Submitted D. I. SMYTH..... Ch-

The Committee on the state of Religion made their report which was read and adopted as follows :

From the letters sent up by the different churches, we find that some have enjoyed precious revivals ; while others complain of coldness and barrenness. Brethren, there must be a cause for this ; and it becomes us to make diligent effort to ascertain and remove said cause.—Your committee would call special attention to the fact, that those churches, almost without exception that reported well organised and regulated Sabbath schools, are the churches that have enjoyed revivals of religion.

Respectfully Submitted.

H. L. Finley, Chairman.

The committee on documents made the following report which was adopted :

Your committee on documents beg leave to make the following report :

That we recommend so much of the minutes of the first district as relate to the the time and place of holding the next meeting of that body and the name of the one elected to preach the introductory Sermon.

The subjects to be written on and

the names of those appointed to write and also the queries for discussion ; we recommend to the association the propriety of a letter of correspondence to be inserted in our Minutes. We recommend the churches ; the Index and the Baptist at Memphis, the publications of the Southern Publishing House.

All of which is respectfully submitted. J. T. Pitts Chairman. The committee on Temperance made their report which was read and adopted as follows

Your Committee on Temperance beg leave to make the following report :—That temperance in its truest sense is a christian virtue, of no doubt, and that the misuse of ardent spirits is making fearful inroads into society and the must be apparent to all. That has failed to stop its progress the influence of societies is pa hence we recommend the association to suggest some plan to arrest its progress.

All of which is Respectfully submitted. J. T. Pitts

Chairman

Adjourned for one hour.
 by Elder J. E. Rodgers.

EVENING SESSION.

Met pursuant to adjournment.
 Prayer by Elder A J Seale,
 Aberdeen Association.

The Committee on the Bible cause made their report which was read, and after some discussion was laid on the table.

The committee appointed to re-district the Association made the following report which was agreed to:

Your Committee to re-district the Association would report Cherry Creek, New Hope, Liberty, Pleasant Ridge, Pleasant Hill, Mount Pisgah, Bethel (Po.) Shady Grove, Friendship, Spring Hill, 1st district, and the remaining churches to constitute the 2nd district, all of which is respectfully submitted.

H. L. Finley, Chairman.

Appointed Elder H. L. Finley to distribute the Minutes in the second district of the Association.

Resolutions.

Resolved that this body earnestly recommend to the minister of this Association that they preach to the colored population when they can, and that they use every effort to bring them under the influence of the christian religion.

Resolved that this body tenders its thanks to the brethren of this church, and the citizens in the community for their kind reception and hospitable entertainment during our stay with them.

Resolved that this body tenders

its thanks to the Moderator and Clerk for the very satisfactory manner in which they have served us and that the Clerk be requested to have as many copies of Minutes published as he can after reserving ten dollars for his services.

Resolved, That each pastor be, and is hereby requested to preach at least one sermon to each of his churches on the danger and other evils of moderate dram drinking; and that all the members be urgently requested to give the whole of their influence against the use of ardent spirits as a beverage.

Resolved, that the churches composing this Association be and are hereby requested to prepare a concise history of their rise and progress up to this date and forward them to the following Committee viz: J. T. Pitts N. M. Berry D. I. Smith and J. B. Gambrell whose duty it shall be to so prepare the same so that they may appear in our next Minutes, (address Elder J. T. Pitts at Cherry Creek.)

On motion adjourned [after singing one of the songs of Zion and extending the parting hand to each other with much apparant love and affection.] To meet with the church at Cherry Creek Friday before the third Sabbath in Sept. 1867.
James Baswell Mod.
E. Smyth. Clerk

CHURCHES.

FAST(•RS,

POSTOFFICE.

Days of Meeting.

NAMES OF DELEGATES,

Amaziah.....	W. L. Farmer.....	Cornerville.....	2 A Rhea, G Neighbors, C G Baker.....	N	R	D	E	D	C
Aedama.....	J. W. Johnson.....	Orizaba.....	3 M Core, W E Owens, N S Watson.....	7	4	6	3	1	5
Antioch.....			3 Not represented.	1	7	8	0	43	76
Bathel [Po, Co].....	J. G								

TABLE OF STATISTICS.

Meeting.

Letter.

Letter.

bers

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